

MOREEN BLUM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my good friend, Moreen Blum, who was recently honored by the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club for her outstanding contributions to democratic politics in the San Fernando Valley. I have known Moreen for over two decades and have had the pleasure of working with her on many important issues in our community.

A long time volunteer in local politics, Moreen was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She joined the Navy when she was twenty years old and was a member of the Waves until 1952. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles in 1959, she formed the West Hollywood Democratic Club and was a Golden Girl at the John F. Kennedy nominating convention. Currently, she is President Emeritus of the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club, and is very active as the president and founder of the Summerville Democratic Club. Her noteworthy achievements were recognized by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, as she was presented with the Dorothy Mayer Award. She serves as a worthy example to all political activists.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Moreen Blum for her impressive career and dedication to the people of the San Fernando Valley.

**HONORING THE HEROISM OF
CHRIS LEVI**
HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, poet and Capitol Tour Guide Albert C. Caswell has penned a poem in honor of Sp. E4 Chris Levi of The North Brigade 410/230 10th Mountain, from Holbrook Long Island. On March 17th 2008, in Sadr City Iraq, Chris lost both of his legs when an EFP struck him. Miraculously, he somehow cheated death. And now like all of our magnificent heroes of the military, who have given their most precious limbs, Chris begins his new fight. A fight that he is winning, winning with his great heart of faith and courage. As like Bob Dole, he too will be an inspiration to us all, for the rest of his life, as we witness the true meaning of the word Hero, all in our time.

10TH MOUNTAIN MEN

10th Mountain Men . . .
Are but those my friends, who will this our
nation so defend . . .
Who but in times of war, all for country bore
. . . the greatest of all burdens, until
the bitter end.
Brilliant Men, who run and fight . . .
Who climb mountains, knock down doors
. . . and go through walls to win that
night . . .
Who with but their brave hearts so ignite,
the fight for freedom to so bring the
light!
For well over the many years . . .
There have been so many magnificent heroes,
so dear!

Men like Chris Levi, and Bob Dole . . . who
are but our Lord's greatest of all men
endeared . . .
Are such Men to behold, who with but their
fine hearts of gold . . .
With such great inspiration inspire us all so
. . . to so warm one's soul . . .
To carry with us as we grow old, in heart's
of love so . . . such honor, for them we
now so hold!
A New York Man . . . who so boldly in Long
Island ran . . .
Who from Suffolk, without fear . . . with
such great courage would so stand . . .
So stand, therein face of death . . . and then
to return back home with almost nothing
left . . .
Who gave up but his two fine strong legs . . .
As he won't moan, and he won't beg . . . As
he starts his brilliant life all over
again . . .
With but his fine heart and soul, showing us
all in life . . . But where lies man-
kind's true gold.
As step by step . . .
The new pain and heartache, somehow he so
accepts . . . as this hero is not done
yet!
For He Will Reach Us, as He Will So Teach
Us . . . as oh yes, as each of us . . . he
Will So Bless . . .
But, with his fine heart of honor so . . .
He now so stands, with all of his band of
brothers . . . such great respect he now
so commands!
All of our hearts and souls, as he battles
through those winds so cold . . . mak-
ing us all so understand.
That in the end, it's but only with our heart
we win!
Arms and legs surely we all need, but with-
out a great heart . . . one cannot so
breathe . . . to succeed!
To start all over again . . . Chris, you are
America's fine son of faith and glory,
bless you . . . Godspeed . . .
In life, there are so many Mountains we
must climb!
But, only with such unshaken faith and cour-
age, will one so find . . .
All of those fine things, that which so bring
such tears to even the Angels' eyes . . .
In Chris Levi . . .
We so surely see, what the word hero so im-
plies!
And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray.
. . . That he will be like you this fine
one . . . Chris Levi . . .

**IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT MA'S
FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE
AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN**
HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated as President of Republic of China (Taiwan) on May 20, 2008. During the last twelve months there has been a considerable reduction of tension across the Taiwan Strait and there have been productive talks between the two sides on issues such as direct airline flights, an economic accord protecting investments, more tourist visits by mainlanders to Taiwan.

President Ma has also been working closely with the U.S. government. The mutual relationship between our two countries is strong. We hope that the relations will grow even stronger in all areas, including trade, science and tech-

nology, educational exchange, military sales and Taiwan's participation in international agencies.

It is heartening to learn that Taiwan has been invited to attend this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland from May 19 to May 27 as an observer. This is a breakthrough for the Taiwanese government; it is Taiwan's first participation in a formal U.N. activity since 1971, when the world body switched its recognition to mainland China.

In celebrating President Ma's first anniversary in office, I join my Congressional colleagues in hoping that Taiwan's participation in the WHA this May will lead to Taiwan's future successes in returning to other international organizations.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
GROUP LIFE INSURANCE IM-
PROVEMENT ACT OF 2009**
HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Veterans' Group Life Insurance Improvement Act of 2009 which increases the amount of life insurance available to veterans. Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The purpose of this program is to give veterans the option to convert their Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage that they carry when they are in service to a competitive life insurance product for them and their family in post-military life.

Under current law, veterans have up to one year to convert the amount of SGLI coverage they carry to VGLI. Many separating servicemembers are young and don't see the need to carry a large amount of life insurance coverage. However, as they get older and have a family, many of these servicemembers have expressed a desire to purchase additional coverage but are barred from doing so under current law.

The Veterans' Group Life Insurance Improvement Act of 2009 allows veterans to purchase up to \$400,000 of VGLI coverage in \$50,000 increments, every five years, until the age of 60. The costs of such increases in coverage will be offset by premiums veterans pay, so there is no direct cost to the government. This bill gives our veterans greater flexibility in their life insurance choices and I urge all members to co-sponsor and support this legislation.

**A TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE V HAY-
ALLEYNE**
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Constance V. Hay-Alleyne.

Constance has lived life as a goal oriented and knowledgeable Registered Nurse with ambitious and humanitarian social motivations. Constance is well known in the Panamanian and Caribbean communities. Her delightful intellectual curiosity has served her professional